
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION BUREAU

WATERWAYS ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR GRANTS

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Description

Grants-in-aid are provided to Waterways-sponsored local units of government for infrastructure improvements (preventative maintenance, emergency repair and utility upgrades) and contractual engineering studies of recreational boating facilities. Infrastructure grants are intended for smaller projects (typically under \$60,000) of a repair or maintenance nature.

Legislative History

The Waterways Program was created through enactment of State of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC).

Grant Guidelines

Financial assistance is typically provided equal to 50% of the total cost for engineering studies and harbor work and 75% of the total cost for boat launch facilities.

Grant Process

Upon receipt of an inquiry from a local unit, the program manager discusses with or visits the local unit, reviews the site and the proposed project, to determine available assistance. If the proposed project complies with planning goals for the program, and is approved by PRB, the program manager discusses with the local unit the next step. The local community then submits a grant request to PRB. With larger or complex project efforts, a preliminary engineering study is required to determine the design, cost and feasibility of constructing the proposed facilities. Preliminary engineering studies are conducted by the local unit with matching grant monies, 50% of the study cost, available from PRB. State and Federal permits are obtained during the study process. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Based on the Engineering Study, a determination is made by the local unit of its ability to participate in the project.

Applications for funding are accepted at all times for consideration. Grant applicants must show good performance on past Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants for proposal consideration.

Funding Source

The restricted Waterways Fund, consists of revenues derived from 1.6% of state gasoline taxes and 17.5% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year.